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**From:** Watkins, Tim [Watkins.Tim@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 9/21/2017 4:15:34 PM  
**To:** ORD-NERL Feds and NonFeds [ORD-NERL-Feds-and-NonFeds@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Smith, Kathryn [Smith.Kathryn@epa.gov]; Saracco, Silvia [Saracco.Silvia@epa.gov]; Ottlinger, Michael [Ottlinger.Michael@epa.gov]; Pitchford, Ann [Pitchford.Ann@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Update on the NERL Organizational Advisory Team (NOAT)  
**Attachments:** NOAT Charge - Final - Sep 2017.docx

NERL –

This email is to update you on the NERL Organizational Advisory Team (NOAT).

During the NERL Reorganization, the NERL Reorganization Implementation Team was assembled to help with issues related to the transition to the new organizational structure for NERL. Feedback received suggested that keeping such a mechanism available for staff would be helpful. This is consistent with the NERL management team's desire to keep multiple lines of communication open to enhance information flow to and from staff. Furthermore, we are interested in incorporating staff input into activities intended to enhance NERL's work environment. Keeping lines of communication open and information flowing is particularly important given some of the challenges facing NERL in the near future, including consolidation efforts in Las Vegas, Athens, and RTP and potential resource challenges. After a bit of a slow start, the NOAT is now having regular meetings with the goal of making NERL a better place to work. I have attached the charge for the NOAT to this email.

NOAT members (identified below) are available to colleagues in their organization as well as at their locations regardless of organization for raising questions and providing input relating to NERL activities, processes, and issues. In addition, as appropriate or needed, NOAT members will actively reach out to colleagues for input. NOAT members will help to illuminate information from surveys such as the just concluded Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, and, as appropriate, help to address suggestions and comments submitted through the anonymous NERL Organizational Enhancement Suggestion box (<https://intranet.ord.epa.gov/nerl/enhancing-nerl-workplace>).

NOAT membership is designed to be a representative cross section of NERL roles, Division affiliations, and geographic locations. Inaugural members of the NOAT are:

- Tim Watkins – Chair
- Angela Batt – SED, Cincinnati
- Breanne Benton – CED, Athens
- Sherry Brown – SED, RTP
- Jay Christensen – SED, Las Vegas
- Surender Kaushik – EMMD, RTP
- Jeff Morgan – EMMD, Cincinnati
- Jim Owens – EMMD, Cincinnati
- Ann Pitchford – SED, Las Vegas (NAGE President)
- Lindsay Stanek – SED RTP
- Ed Struble – IO, RTP

Michael Ottlinger (NTEU President in Cincinnati) and Silvia Saracco (AFGE President in RTP) have agreed to serve on the NOAT as ex-officio members.

The NOAT Charge and Membership is also available on the NERL@Work site under the [Enhancing the NERL Workplace](#) link. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the NOAT, as well as someone in your management chain, with suggestions, comments, concerns, and/or proposed solutions.

Tim Watkins

Deputy Director  
National Exposure Research Laboratory  
Office of Research and Development  
US EPA

**Personal Matters / Ex. 6**

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